

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling event triggers and re-authorization triggers in flow based charging, comprising:

(A) TPF (traffic plane function) determining whether a ~~a~~ [[the]] bearer event matches an event trigger, if it matches, proceeding to step B, and otherwise, proceeding to step C;

(B) TPF requesting [[the]] charging rules from CRF (charging rule function) and proceeding to step C;

(C) TPF determining whether the bearer event matches a re-authorization trigger, if it matches, the TPF performing a re-authorization process ~~and otherwise, ending the current process.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step B comprises: TPF requesting ~~CRF for~~ a charging rule from CRF, and receiving the charging rule selected and returned by the CRF ~~returning to TPF a selected charging rule.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said step B further ~~comprising:~~ comprises TPF providing CRF with the bearer event ~~currently occurred.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein, if TPF determines that the bearer event matches [[an]] the event trigger, ~~wherein~~ said step B further ~~comprising:~~ comprises said TPF determining whether said charging rule provided by CRF is changed, if it ~~does is~~, the TPF performs a re-authorization process, and otherwise, proceeding to step C.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, in said step B, if the TPF determines the charging rule provided by CRF is changed, before the TPF performing a re-authorization process, further comprising: TPF determining whether a re-authorization is needed due to the changed charging rule, if it is, TPF performing a re-authorization process, and otherwise, proceeding to step C.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 4, in said step B, if the TPF determines a re-authorization is needed due to the changed charging rule, before the TPF performing a re-authorization process, further comprising: TPF determining whether the bearer event ~~currently occurred~~ matches a re-authorization trigger, if it matches, TPF performing a re-authorization process, and providing OCS (online charging system) with the bearer event ~~currently occurred~~, and otherwise, TPF only performing ~~[[a]]~~ the re-authorization process.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said performing a re-authorization process further comprising: TPF providing OCS with the changed charging rule.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said performing a re-authorization process in step C further comprising: TPF providing OCS with the bearer event ~~currently occurred~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said performing a re-authorization process comprises: TPF requesting ~~re-authorization~~ re-authorization of ~~[[the]]~~

a credit in the OCS, and ~~further OCS returning to TPF~~ receiving ~~[[the]]~~ an authorized credit from the OCS.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said event triggers are provided to TPF by CRF.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said re-authorization triggers are provided to TPF by OCS or via CRF by OCS.

12. (New) A flow based charging rule (FBC) system, said system comprising:
a traffic plane function (TPF) entity communicatively connected to a charging rule function (CRF) entity and an online charging system (OCS),
wherein, when a bear modification occurs, the traffic plane function entity first determines, using event triggers, whether to request a charging rule from the charging rule function entity, and then determines, using re-authorization triggers, whether to perform a re-authorization process with the online charging system.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein, if the bear modification matches an event trigger, the TPF entity requests the charging rule from the CRF entity and provides the occurred bear modification to the CRF entity.

14. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein, if the occurred bear modification or the charging rule requested from the CRF entity matches a re-authorization trigger, the TPF entity performs the re-authorization process.

15. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the TPF entity is further configured to provide the OCS with the occurred bear modification or the charging rule during the re-authorization process.

16. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the TPF entity is further configured to determine whether the charging rule provided by the CRF entity is changed before determining whether to perform the re-authorization process, and, if the charging rule is changed or if the occurred bear modification matches a re-authorization trigger, perform the re-authorization process.

17. (New) The system of 16, wherein the TPF entity is further configured to provide the OCS with the charging rule or the occurred bear modification during performing the re-authorization process with the OCS.

18. (New) A method in a flow based charging system, said method comprising:
when a bear modification occurs, first
determining, using event triggers, whether to request a charging rule from a charging rule function (CRF) entity in a flow based charging system, the determining performed by a traffic plane function (TPF) entity in the flow based charging system; and then
determining, by the TPF entity using re-authorization triggers, whether to perform a re-authorization process with an online charging system (OCS) in the flow based charging system.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of determining by the TPF entity whether to request the charging rule comprises:

requesting if the occurred bear modification matches an event trigger, requesting the charging rule from the CRF and providing the CRF entity with the occurred bear modification.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising before determining whether to perform the re-authorization process:

deciding whether the charging rule provided by the CRF entity is changed, and wherein the step of determining, using re-authorization triggers, whether to perform a re-authorization request process comprises:

performing the re-authorization process with the OCS if the charging rule returned by the CRF entity is changed or if the occurred bear modification matches the re-authorization trigger.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising: reporting, by the TPF entity, the charging rule or the bear modification to the OCS.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of determining whether to perform a re-authorization request process comprises:

if the occurred bear modification matches the re-authorization trigger, requesting re-authorization of credit from the OCS and providing the occurred bear modification to the OCS.